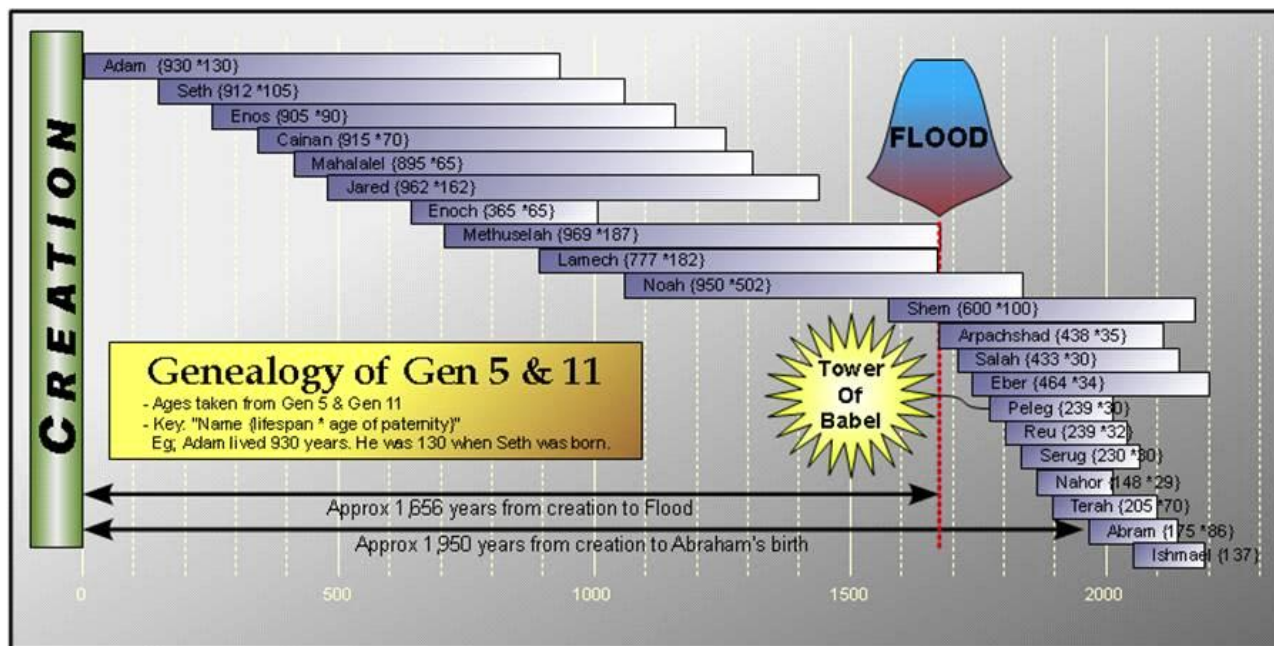


Genesis



- There are 10 people from Adam to Noah (the flood) and, likewise, 10 people from Shem to Abraham. This symmetry might be an excellent reason for concluding that Moses is simply using a mnemonic device and not giving literal time lines. However his use of lifespans and paternal ages is still an issue that we can't skirt, and I maintain that this is an excellent reason to insist that Moses intends to be literal.
- The flood takes place about 1,656 years after creation. To get an idea of the population of the world after 10 generations, see [this link](#). Bear in mind that in an agrarian culture, with plenty of fertile land and natural resources, a relatively clean gene pool so the more kids a couple has, the better off they are, and there would be little incentive to not produce many children. Furthermore, pre-flood humans lived about 10x longer than we do today. If today's females can give birth up to about 35 years of age, it's safe to assume they could do so up to about 350 years back then. So if they birthed 1 child every 7 years, each couple would have 50 children. If that sounds outlandish, bear in mind that Josephus wrote that Adam had 33 sons and 23 daughters. No, Josephus isn't inspired, but in light of this reasoning, his statement isn't as outlandish as it might sound. If 50 children per couple was anything close to the norm, then the "10 sons" column on the Generations page presents woefully low numbers.
- Lifespans after the flood are dramatically shorter than lifespans before the flood. So much so that Shem, son of Noah, outlived Abraham. If this listing is literal, there's no reason to believe that Abraham did not personally know Shem. Some people suggest that Melchizedek, king of Salem, was actually Shem.

This handout is from "Linear Concepts" at <http://www.linearconcepts.com/theology/bible-history/genealogical-ages-of-genesis>

I've heard a number of people make comments along the lines of "this list isn't literal. The word 'begat' can mean 'father to son' just as easily as it can mean 'father to great-grandson'. 'Begat' simply means that Person A is an ancestor of Person B. Therefore, this genealogy simply presents a list of notable people." So the conclusion is made that it's not ten generations, but rather 100, or even 1,000 generation – or more. Fair enough – I'm curious as to what would motivate a person at least 4,000 years removed from [Genesis 11](#) to insist that Moses wasn't being literal, but that's a blog for another day. (By the way, be sure to check out the [Male Population of Genesis](#) page for more of the same.) But the genealogy in [Genesis 5](#) and 11 is quite different from other genealogies in the Bible: these are the only two Biblical genealogies where years are given for the age of paternity (eg *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.* [Gen 5:3](#), ESV). So while people may insist there are more names in the genealogy, they cannot insist that there are more years in the genealogy or they make Moses out to be a liar. Not only was Moses quite specific when he wrote out the the age of Person A when Person B was born, but he was also under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There can be no wiggle room. Either Moses (and the Holy Spirit) is right, or he is wrong. We can say "we'llll.. 'begat' really means 'ancestor'", but we cannot say "we'llll.. age X really means age Y".

So what do we see if we list the ages as Moses gave them?

Person	Gen	Age of Paternity	Age of Death	AM*	Death Year	Years After First Son	Birth Year After Flood	AD
Adam	1	130	930	1	930	800	-1656	4114
Seth	2	105	912	130	1042	807	-1526	3984
Enos	3	90	905	235	1140	815	-1421	3879
Cainan	4	70	917	325	1242	847	-1331	3789
Mahalalel	5	65	895	395	1290	830	-1261	3719
Jared	6	162	962	460	1422	800	-1196	3654
Enoch	7	65	365	622	987	300	-1034	3492
Methuselah	8	187	969	687	1656	782	-969	3427
Lamech	9	182	777	874	1651	595	-782	3240
Noah	10	502	950	1056	2006	448	-600	3058

Shem	11	100	600	1558	2158	500	-98	2556
Arpachshad	12	35	438	1658	2096	403	2	2456
Salah	13	30	433	1693	2126	403	37	2421
Eber	14	34	464	1723	2187	430	67	2391
Peleg	15	30	239	1757	1996	209	101	2357
Reu	16	32	239	1787	2026	207	131	2327
Serug	17	30	230	1819	2049	200	163	2295
Nahor	18	29	148	1849	1997	119	193	2265
Terah	19	70	205	1878	2083	135	222	2236
Abram	20	86	175	1948	2123	89	292	2166
Ishmael	21	?	137	2034	2171	137	378	2080

*AM = Anno Mundi - In the Year of the World

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